MTE 3/12/09 M 645

FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDING REQUEST Great Falls Community Ice Foundation 11 March 2009

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Background: The Great Falls Community Ice Foundation was formed in 2004 and was approved by the IRS as a federal 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in February 2005. Since our inception, we have raised \$930,000 via donations from 80 businesses, 40 organizations, and 240 individuals. This total includes a grant of \$400,000 from the City of Great Falls to install City water and sewer service. In addition, we've secured a loan from Cascade County for \$250,000 and a commercial loan from Mountain West Bank for \$1.25 million. We began construction of the new ice arena in fall 2006 on eight acres of land donated by the Flying J Corporation. The property has been annexed into the City of Great Falls and we completed construction and opened the facility in early November 2008. We estimate the new facility will attract 7,400 out-of—town visitors annually for hockey tournaments and other ice events. These visitors will rent approximately 5,000 motel rooms, purchase 44,000 meals in local restaurants and inject \$2 million annually into our local economy. We have a good solid basic facility with strong management. However, there are a number of amenities we need to add to make it a full-service facility and our current finances are inadequate to complete these projects. Our needs are listed below, in rough order of priority.

- 1) Finish Insulation of Building. The ceiling and half of one end wall were insulated during construction. We desperately need to finish insulating the remaining walls to improve energy efficiency and increase comfort level for spectators and participants. Estimated cost: \$60,000. This project is "shovel ready".
- 2) Pave Entry Road. This is a requirement of our annexation agreement with the City of Great Falls. We need to pave approximately 600 feet of the entry road. The road is 29th Street SW and will become part of the City road system. Estimated cost: \$75,000. This project is "shovel ready".
 - 3) Construct Annex With Heated Locker Rooms, Concessions Area & Viewing Area. We currently have only temporary dressing rooms with no ceilings, heat, or showers. We need to build heated locker rooms with showers and other amenities to become a full-service facility and improve our attractiveness for major tournaments and ice events and the financial health of the facility. Estimated cost: \$1.5 million. Will require some design engineering.
 - 4) Pave Parking Lot With Drainage System, Landscaping & Outside Lighting. This is another requirement of our annexation agreement with the City of Great Falls. We currently have a dirt parking lot which becomes very muddy at times. Estimated cost: \$2 million. Will require some design engineering.
 - 5) Finish Mezzanine. We need to finish the upper level, above the current skate shop, public restrooms, mechanical room and zamboni room. Need to pour concrete floor and frame in meeting room, locker rooms, and public viewing area. Estimated cost: \$150,000. This project is "shovel ready".

We would appreciate any contribution towards the completion of these projects. Thanks for considering this request.

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